

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1 and 22-28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over Toyoda (U.S. 5, 881,233) in view of Eguchi (U.S. 6,574,670), Firth (U.S. 5,987,517), and Zhang (U.S. 6,016,478). It is respectfully submitted, however, that Applicant's claims are patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

Applicant's invention, as recited by claim 1, includes a feature which is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely:

... a destination input unit for entering a character string corresponding to a destination, said destination input unit selecting between e-mail transmission and facsimile transmission based on contents of said character string ...

This feature is supported by the originally filed application at page 6, lines 21-34. No new matter has been added.

Thus, in one exemplary embodiment, the destination input unit can select between e-mail transmission and fax transmission depending, for example, on whether an input character stream includes a "@".

The prior art of record does not include this feature. The Official Action cites Toyoda as selecting between facsimile transmission and e-mail transmission. In Toyoda, the selection between the two types of transmissions is accomplished using a switch on a front panel. Again, by contrast, the determination in claim 1 of whether e-mail transmission or facsimile transmission is selected is dependent upon the contents of a character string. As this feature is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, claim 1 is patentable over the art of record.

Claim 24, while not identical to claim 1, is patentable for reasons similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1.

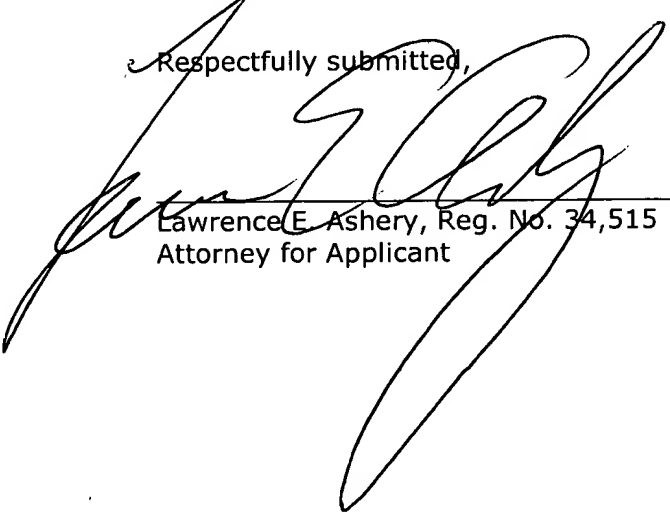
The remaining claims are patentable by virtue of their dependency on allowable independent claims.

Application. No.: 09/734,158
Amendment Dated December 15, 2006
Reply to Office Action of August 15, 2006

MAT-8047US

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: December 15, 2006

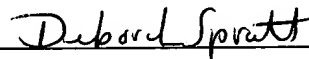
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Deborah Spratt



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